

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

While drug overdose deaths rise nationwide, local organizations take action to reduce harm

BY OLIVIA STANZL

As drug overdoses increase within the United States, different methods of helping those who suffer from dependence on drugs have been implemented around the nation. Ithaca College has implemented educational opportunities to keep the campus community informed and safe.

While drug overdose deaths were already on the rise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated overdose deaths. According to the CDC, from March 2020 to April 2020 there were 2,146 overdoses, and from April 2020 to May 2020 there were 3,388 overdoses across the United States, making it the largest monthly increases in overdose deaths since estimates began to be calculated in January 2015.

During the 2021 year, New York state, excluding New York City, had a total of 1,121 opioid overdoses and Tompkins County had nine from January to June 2021. **Ithaca College's response to increasing overdoses in America**

Michelle Goode, program director in the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness, said it is essential for the college to be a community that supports one another. Goode said one way to do that is to attend opioid overdose trainings that are held for the campus community through partnership with the Southern Tier AIDS program (STAP).

"Part of that is looking out for folks and making sure that they're safe, or as safe as they can be," Goode said. "And certainly, we know that there might be substance use happening on a college campus. So, we want to make sure that folks are prepared and ready

to recognize what might be the signs of an overdose."

Kim Conrad, harm reduction site coordinator for the Western Region at STAP, has been holding opioid overdose prevention trainings at the college since 2018. Through these programs they teach the campus community how to prevent deaths caused by overdose, like how to properly use naloxone, a medicine that quickly reverses an opioid overdose. Naloxone is provided to the college by STAP and is found in boxes, which are

RECOVERY, PAGE 1



Starbucks management in a latte trouble after organized workers go on strike



From left, Starbucks workers Brian Murray, Benjamin South and Scout Coker strike April 16 after a kitchen accident.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

On April 16, the workers of Cornell University's College Ave. Starbucks went on strike only a week and a day after having voted 19-1 to form the 15th American Starbucks union.

That morning — while the coffee shop was already overworked and understaffed — the

grease trap in the kitchen overflowed, spreading a cocktail of unknown congealed kitchen grease, oil and runoff across the floor. Despite customer complaints of the odor and workers trying to close the store for safety, the store was kept open. This decision was made by the store's then-acting manager, Victor Rodostny, who

did not respond to a request for comment.

"I told him that it wasn't safe to stay open and [that] I'm closing the store," Benjamin South, the store's shift supervisor, said. "He immediately came to the store and demanded we open it back up. [The workers] talked about it ... I said 'Hey if we were to walk-out on strike would y'all want to do it?' and we all agreed that we would."

The strike began around 11 a.m. and continued until the evening. Workers held signs outside the store reading "Honk if you support partners" and "Union busting is disgusting." The store was closed Saturday due to the strike and remained closed on Sunday while the grease trap was fixed.

"They [management] said that they were going to fix the [grease] trap on Monday, so we were like 'Let's strike until Monday,'" Evan Sunshine, a barista at College Ave. said. "But then they were like 'Oh my God, they're

actually going on strike, this is a big deal.' So they actually sent the guy to fix it on Saturday. It really goes to show that striking does solve the problem."

The strike was

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ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNA TOVAR

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THEATER HOSTS PERFORMANCE OF 'FUN HOME'



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OVERDOSE CRISIS REQUIRES ACTION AND EDUCATION



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IC ESPORTS CLUB SEEKS SUPPORT FROM COLLEGE

IC Wi-Fi shuts off from cyberattack

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

An April 19 cyberattack caused internet connection at Ithaca College to cut out intermittently, disrupting operations across the campus.

In an Information Technology Service Ticket, Angel Gavidia, associate director in the Department of Applications and Infrastructure, said a distributed denial-of-service attack on the college network overloaded the system and caused it to fail. The internet's inconsistent function forced entities across campus to shut down temporarily or change their operations, including the library, classes and the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS).

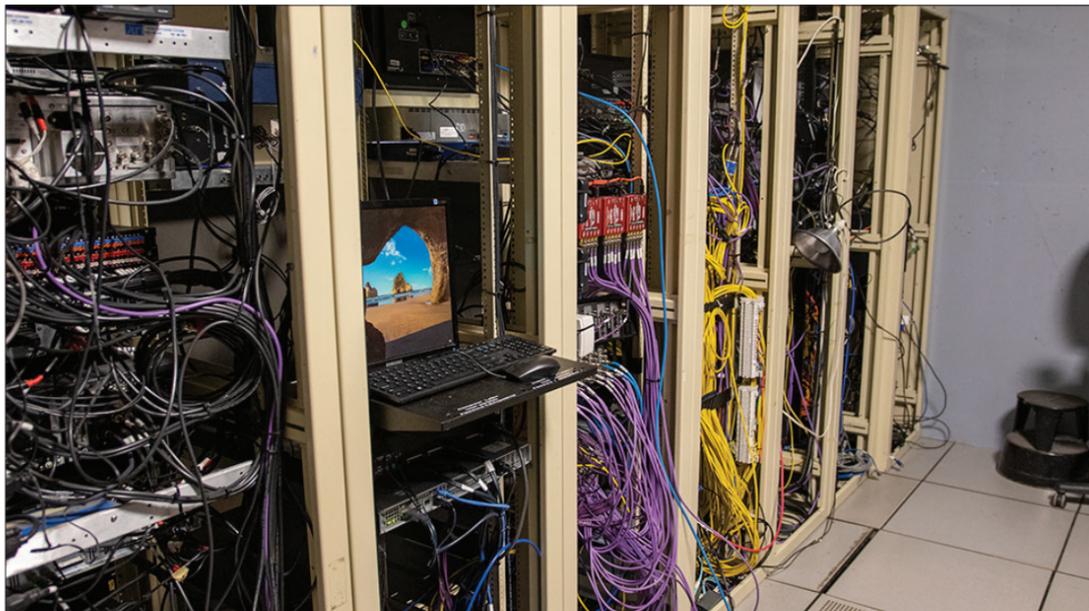
"The Ithaca College network was subject to a distributed denial-of-service attack from threat actors on the internet," Gavidia said in the service ticket. "The Information Security team and the Network

team have implemented measures to mitigate the attack and will investigate other options to limit or prevent future attacks."

According to the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, a denial-of-service attack occurs when an individual or group deliberately floods a network with traffic, making it inaccessible to users or causing it to crash. There is no way to completely prepare for this kind of attack, but security measures can be taken to control traffic, protect information and detect when an attack may be coming.

Junior Stephanie Monteiro said she had a CAPS appointment at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom that was canceled because of the outages.

Freshman student employee Michelle Engler said that at the library, the outage caused printers to fail and the library operating system to not function. Engler said any time a student wanted to check anything out during the



On April 19, Ithaca College experienced a campus-wide distributed denial-of-service attack that caused Wi-Fi outages. The attack has stopped, but it is hard to prevent that type of attack from occurring again.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

outages, like books and other library resources, employees had to manually copy the information on paper, like reference numbers, student ID numbers and student names.

Courses were also impacted. Alison Frisch, associate professor in the Department of Journalism, said she was forced to dismiss one of her journalism classes early due to an inability to consistently connect

to the internet.

"We were wanting to watch an installment of [a documentary] and we got it started, but it just wouldn't play, so we decided to end class at that point," Frisch said.

Monteiro, a student in Frisch's class, said she was disappointed to miss out on class. She said campus internet issues are not uncommon and they can be very disruptive.

"I feel like there's a lot of problems with the Wi-Fi and it's such a basic necessity for us to do anything in this day and age," Monteiro said, "It's probably sort of up there [in the college's priorities], but it just seems like there's regularly a problem."

CONTACT CLARE SHANAHAN
CSHANAHAN@ITHACA.EDU

MULTIMEDIA

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'ONWARD' Exhibit Brings Community Together

Staff Council and Tri-Council co-hosted a community exhibit titled "ONWARD," showcasing artistic creations from students, faculty and staff.



IC Creatives: Ryan Bieber

Senior Ryan Bieber is a journalist and musician who just released his first music video to go with his new Spotify single.

THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL,
ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850
(607) 274-1376 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU
WWW.THEITHACAN.ORG

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Professors study monkey business

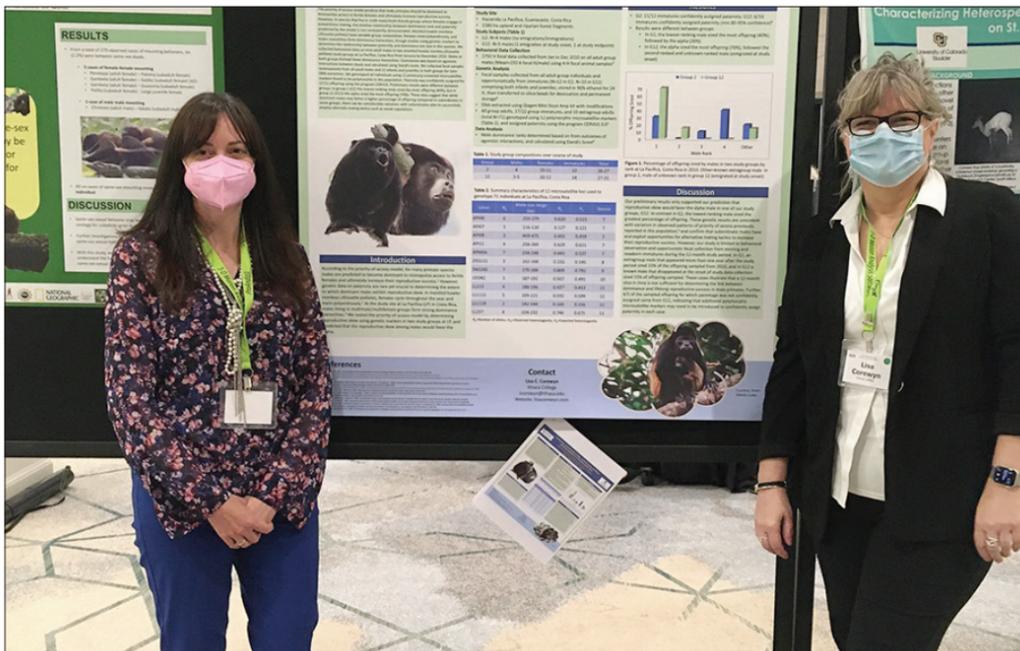
BY JOSHUA PANTANO

Kari Brossard Stoops, associate professor and associate chair in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education at Ithaca College, presented her research on the declining populations of mantled howler monkeys at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in March.

Lisa Corewyn, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, and Brossard Stoops have been conducting this research along with others including about 20 student volunteers. The research suggests populations of mantled howler monkeys are declining in Costa Rica. The species' declining health — which comes as a result of climate change, a shortage of resources and chemical exposure — might have greater environmental impacts. Brossard Stoops said the presence of human antimicrobials could have serious impacts on the endangered mantled howler monkeys and their environments.

"Humans broach on that interface and leave things in the habitat of the animals, and those things could be antimicrobials," Brossard Stoops said. "They could be toxins [or] pesticides, and that affects the microbes in the environment. So, the microbes that are in the environment also depict what's going to happen in the health of the animals."

The effects of antimicrobials on the health of mantled howler monkeys spreads to greater



From left, associate professor Kari Brossard Stoops and assistant professor Lisa Corewyn are on a research team studying the declining population of mantled howler monkeys in Costa Rica.

COURTESY OF KARI BROSSARD STOOPS

implications for environments.

"Antimicrobial resistance is one of the fastest growing public health threats that we have right now," Brossard Stoops said. "It's still a big piece of why I continue my research. ... It not only threatens us and our health, but it threatens wildlife."

During her presentations, like at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, she gave talks primarily centered around the encroachment by humans on the habitats of vulnerable species.

"It's always energizing to give presentations to a different audience and there was a lot of really stimulating conversation that came out after that,"

Brossard Stoops said.

The two collected samples from the mantled howler monkey population in 2019, but have been unable to process the samples, which are currently in Costa Rica, because of travel restrictions caused by COVID-19.

"They [students] make really strong connections between what we do in the field and what we do in the laboratory, and that's a really rare and unique opportunity for students to have," Corewyn said.

Senior Madison Jones, a health science major, helped contribute to the mantled howler monkey research work like isolating DNA and running

polymerase chain reactions.

"Because of [COVID-19], I hadn't been able to take a lot of in-person labs that traditionally I would have taken," Jones said. "I was really able to build that through doing the research."

Brossard Stoops and Corewyn plan to go back to Costa Rica in summer 2023 to continue their research. Brossard Stoops said she and Corewyn are thankful for the help they've received.

"Without those initial pieces of support, we could not build the research ... we are at right now," Brossard Stoops said.

CONTACT JOSHUA PANTANO
JPANTANO@ITHACA.EDU

NYC program discontinued

BY OLIVIA STANZL

From Spring 2012 to 2020, the Ithaca College New York City program (ICNYC) offered students hands-on experience through internships located in the Big Apple. However, in March 2021, the college announced that the program had been cut.

In March 2021 the college announced the reopening of only the London Center and Los Angeles Center satellite programs after they were paused for the 2020–21 academic year because of COVID-19.

Hersey Egginton, the center's former director, said he believes the underlying reason for the ending of ICNYC was the decline in enrollment toward the end of the program, but the immediate reason was the pandemic. Egginton said the enrollment of the program ebbed and flowed, depending on the semester and number of students at the college. Egginton contributes this partly to the amount of work the program demanded from students.

"It required a fair amount of work and a fair amount of self-confidence and knowledge that this was going to be something of a personal test," Egginton said. "You were either up to it or you weren't."

The program allowed students to spend a semester in the city while working an internship and taking college courses, including a weekly seminar. Students had to find their own internships, a place to live and transportation to their internship.

Students interned for companies, like 5WPR, Barclays Center, Brooklyn Nets, CBS Consumer Products, City Parks Foundation, Harbor Pictures and Hearst Magazines.

Devin Hance '15, who graduated with a television-radio major, was shocked to hear that the program had ended. Throughout her time at the program, Hance obtained internships at CNBC, NBC Sports and CNN.

"[ICNYC] saved my [college] experience," Hance said. "It changed my life. I don't think I'd be where I am now had I not landed those gigs — it literally gave me my first job."

Sam Kuperman '16 attended the program spring semester of his junior year, where he interned within the sports department of New York One. Kuperman helped with production and worked within the nightly sports show. He said that when he applied to the college, the ICNYC programs were one of the factors that stuck out to him.

"I think when you're in a city that big, that has so many different opportunities ... you have a chance to get some experience," Kuperman said. "In my opinion, when you have more opportunities, you get more bites at the apple."

Sophomore Lauren Thier said that the New York City program attracted her to the college and that she planned to attend the program before the college cut it.

"I thought it would give me a lot of opportunities to live in my dream city after college," Thier said. "I knew that you could get internships there for my major, television-radio, which is why I wanted to go there. During my senior year of high school, I had this all planned out."

Since the ending of the program, Egginton has retired because he said he did not think he would be able to find another job that brought him that level of fulfillment and satisfaction.

"It was the best professional experience of my career," Egginton said. "I just enjoyed every student that I worked with. ... I knew I wasn't going to do it forever, but on the other hand, I was looking forward to the next year."

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL
OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU

Retired professor teaches writing to seniors

BY JOSHUA PANTANO

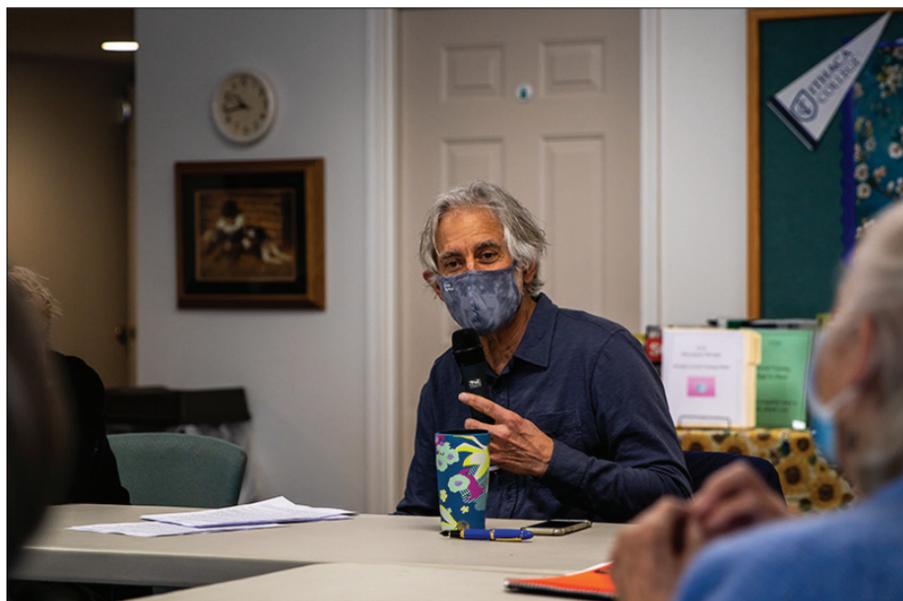
Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., residents of Longview Senior Living Community gather around a set of tables in one of the nursing home's community rooms and take out their writing projects based on the prior week's workshop. The residents listen to each other, read their works then provide feedback.

Jerry Mirskin, a retired Ithaca College professor, has been teaching the creative nonfiction writing workshop to the residents every Tuesday since March 15. Mirskin said he wanted to give Longview residents an opportunity to share their work with each other and receive feedback.

"I'm getting very positive feedback from the seniors, and our sessions feel very real, in the sense that we're participating in something that has a lot of meaning, and meaning enhances attention," Mirskin said.

The workshop encourages Longview residents to write about their life experiences. One resident wrote about his experiences in the army toward the end of World War II. He described how after not being able to have milk, one of his favorite drinks, after arriving at boot camp, he stole some from the mess hall. He then hid from the guards and drank it all. Longview resident Joanna "Sunny" Kuskin wrote about her husband's death and read her work to Mirskin and her fellow workshop attendees.

"There's such a wonderfully satisfying thing about using your mind, and that's very important to me," Kuskin said. "When I've been [at Longview], ... I'm trying to get a grasp of what my life here holds for me because it's important to me to feel alive."



Jerry Mirskin, a retired Ithaca College professor, leads a creative nonfiction writing workshop for students and residents at Longview which will run until May 3.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Longview resident Ardie Bennett said that although she has had experience with writing before, she wants to improve.

"I think I have a long way to go and a lot to learn," Bennett said. "There's a lot that I am very new at and I have a lot to say ... But I think it's very enjoyable."

Workshops like Mirskin's can be essential morale boosters for senior citizens in nursing homes. According to a study at Portland State University, around 20.3% of residents in nursing homes suffer from major depression.

Mirskin taught at Ithaca College for nearly 30 years. While working with new students, Mirskin saw a connection between the freshmen who were transitioning to college life

and the senior citizens who were transitioning to living in nursing homes, which inspired him to start the workshop.

"In both cases, seniors and students were making a transition and an adjustment," Mirskin said. "I thought they would enjoy sharing their experiences with each other."

The current workshop will continue to the week of May 3. After that, Mirskin has plans to do more workshops to help senior citizens in the area. Mirskin encourages any interested parties to join.

"It's intergenerational fun!" Mirskin said.

CONTACT JOSHUA PANTANO
JPANTANO@ITHACA.EDU

FROM RECOVERY, PAGE 1

connected to the campus police, throughout campus buildings and residence halls. Once one of the boxes is opened, the campus police are automatically called.

Due to the Good Samaritan Law, an individual who gives naloxone to someone who overdosed and was using or possessing drugs cannot be arrested.

At the college, students who violate the substance policy on campus, including those who need hospital treatment, must go through Balancing Alcohol & Substance Use to Improve College Success (BASICS), a program that helps students balance their substance use.

Harm reduction techniques

Conrad's work focuses on harm reduction — a public health strategy that is an alternative method to abstinence. Conrad said the point of harm reduction is to put the value on people rather than the substances that they are using.

"Harm reduction acknowledges that drug use is a part of the human experience and that people who use drugs are people who deserve respect and dignity," Conrad said.

One method of harm reduction is syringe exchange. STAP provides safe injection supplies like syringes, ties and caps.

"Because [people who use drugs] inject, there is a higher risk of spreading blood-borne diseases like HIV and hepatitis C," Conrad said. "The illegality of heroin is discouraging people



Boxes containing naloxone are located around Ithaca College's campus. Naloxone is a drug that, when administered, can save the lives of those who suffer from an opioid overdose.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

... from getting the clean supplies that they need."

The program also supplies safe smoking items, glass pipes, lip balm and alcohol wipes to people who are using substances like crack cocaine and meth.

"When people use a pipe to smoke a substance, they could burn their lips, and they could pass that pipe on to other people, and in doing so could also be passing blood-borne pathogens from an open sore on the lips," Conrad said.

Overdose prevention facilities are where people can use drugs while being supervised by medical professionals. In 2018, four pilot sites were approved in New York City, but only two have opened as of January 2022 — one in East Harlem and the

other in Washington Heights. Overdose prevention centers are illegal under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986.

Reducing the social stigma

The college has an Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Team that works to reduce substance use and related harm on campus.

Stewart Auyash, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, teaches the course War on Drugs, which explores questions like why people use drugs. The War on Drugs is a government initiative that started in the 70s and is still occurring today, and it works to stop illegal drug use and trade by increasing drug-related prison sentences. The initiative impacted different racial groups unequally and

disproportionately targeted men of color, specifically Black men.

Sophomore Joshua Mollo, a clinical health studies major who is currently taking the War on Drugs class, said that during his time at the college, he has noticed that drug use is common. Mollo recognizes that students are often afraid to ask for help because of the negative stigma around drug use.

"I just feel like, in general, students, or just anyone who is a drug user, ... are scared to reach out for help," Mollo said. "And it is help that they probably do want and need, but they don't feel like they can reach out to anyone."

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL
OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU

Observatory to reopen

BY JADYN DAVIS

With Ithaca College's Clinton B. Ford Observatory telescope out of commission, faculty and students from the Department of Physics and Astronomy are working around the clock to make sure the telescope is ready for use by Fall 2022.

Back in 2018, the observatory experienced damage to its electronic system as a result of an ongoing issue with rodents. During the winter months, mice would sneak into the observatory and chew on the wires connected to the telescope, causing the system to malfunction. The Office of Facilities helped clear the mice out of the observatory by closing off any potential entrances for mice to get into. However, Matt Price, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said that even with all the necessary cautions, the mice still find a way to get in.

"Once you're fighting a battle against mice, unless you could wipe them all out, you're fighting a battle that eventually, if you can't stop them, you can lose," Price said.

In 1998, the college built the Clinton B. Ford Observatory with funding from Clinton B. Ford — former trustee of the college — the National Science Foundation and the college itself. The main telescope in the observatory is controlled by a computer in the warm room to achieve a blind pointing accuracy better than one arcminute. This allows individuals to see images of celestial objects.

The Astronomy Club at the college started in 2019 and, at the time, hoped to utilize the observatory and educate members and the Ithaca community about the galaxy. However, the club has been inactive because of repairs to the telescope. Senior George Cozma — a physics major — was a member of the club but said he was focusing on putting together the telescope. While the club is separate from the department, the Astronomy Club works alongside the department by doing research and planning events for the student body at the college. Cozma said that even though he wants to get the observatory up and running, he is aware of the challenges that lie ahead.

"My initial reaction was, 'I want to get this fixed as fast as we can,'" Cozma said. "However, once the actual damage was revealed, I knew that it was going to be quite a long process. ... Now that we have all the pieces, we can finally start moving in the direction of bringing everything back online."

Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said the department decided to replace the old telescope with a more updated model, which includes faster software, a modified pillar for the telescope and a USB cable connected to a laptop, as opposed to several wires. Keller said the replacement was necessary because the old telescope was damaged beyond repair.

"We decided, at that point, that this telescope was pretty old, and the computer and electronics were really out of date," Keller said. "It ended up being economically more sensible to actually replace the telescope."

In addition, Keller said the new software will allow the telescope to show better optics. He said he is currently testing the new cameras that work with the telescope to produce clearer images when looking into the telescope.

"We're hoping that the images through it will become more clear," Keller said. "It's not any bigger and it's about the same size. So that's actually good because the building and everything was built for the size of a telescope and it works really well."

CONTACT JADYN DAVIS
JDAVIS@ITHACA.EDU

FROM STRIKE, PAGE 1

eight days after College Ave. and Ithaca's two other Starbucks locations — South Meadow Street and The Commons — won wipeout union elections.

Amanda Laffen, College Ave.'s permanent manager, stepped into the role in February 2022 after the workers filed a petition to unionize. Laffen has allegedly bullied her workers and created a stressful work environment, according to the workers. Laffen, who declined to comment, went on vacation after her workers voted to unionize. Vitek said Rodostny — the manager of the Meadow Street Starbucks who filled in for Laffen while she was on vacation — would not listen to pleas from workers that they were overworked.

"The manager standing in for us [during the grease trap spill] ... all he did was turn off mobile orders," Vitek said. "We're just constantly not being listened to by managers. They assume that we're overreacting because we're expected to work while suffering."

South has worked at College Ave. since 2018. South said the grease trap at that location has consistently failed for years and has never been meaningfully fixed.

"It was impossible to clean up with just a mop and some rags and the smell was putrid," South said. "It's something we've been begging them to fix for years. It's just so unsanitary. I didn't feel comfortable. Since the first day I came here, they joked with me about it [the grease trap] in 2018."

The Department of Labor's regulatory agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), lists multiple hazards grease traps can cause. Over time, poorly kept grease traps have the potential to create toxic and flammable gasses like methane, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide. OSHA requires employers to use personal protective equipment to clean grease traps.



Benjamin South, shift supervisor for Cornell's College Ave. Starbucks location, holds a sign at a strike, which began after workers had multiple management issues.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Sunshine said Starbucks does not supply workers with any personal protective equipment to clean the spills from grease traps.

"We are expected to clean that ourselves — without any protective equipment," Sunshine said. "We have a mop and rags, but that's pretty much it."

A spokesperson for Starbucks' media relations department said she was not aware of any potential safety violations that occurred.

"We take our safety protocols very seriously and our safety protocols and policies are in place to protect partners and protect our customers and the communities we serve," the spokesperson said.

Vitek said that when the store filed for a union in January, the store addressed issues workers had raised to prevent union efforts from taking off. One of the workers' requests was for the grease trap to finally be fixed, which Vitek said management listened to and brought someone in to make repairs. However, the fix was only temporary.

"For a month, [the grease trap] has smelled horrible all the time," Vitek said. "In fact, on top of the grease trap, there's just hundreds of dead maggots there. It's disgusting."

The workers were compensated for the hours that they lost while striking due to a GoFundMe that was started at the beginning of the strike to help cover their wages. As of April 20, the GoFundMe has raised \$2,672.

Scout Coker is a College Ave. worker who said the union allowed them to not worry about getting fired for the strike and credited the strike for getting management to listen. Coker said that by Monday, the grease trap had been cleaned enough to resume work.

"Management is not paid to care about you," Coker said. "Standing up [and striking] has gotten us infinitely more support than I've gotten from any manager in my five years at this company."

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

SGC candidates begin campaigns

BY LORIEN TYNE

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) held platform presentations where students running for the SGC executive board and senate for the 2022–23 academic year announced their candidacy.

About 20 people gathered in Textor 102 to hear from the candidates. Voting on IC Engage will be open April 28 and 29. One executive board, or slate, presented its platform campaign for the SGC executive board and eight students ran for SGC senate positions.

IC United was the only slate that ran for the executive board. As part of IC United, junior Grace Madeya is running for president, junior Tessa Kurtz is running for vice president of academic affairs, junior Maxwell Powers is running for vice president of business and finance, sophomore James Zampetti is running for vice president of communications and junior Soumyaa Joshi is running for vice president of campus affairs. If elected, IC United plans to have junior Lila Weiser as chief of staff.

“Our mission is to make Ithaca College a united campus, a united community and a united voice,” Madeya said.

Freshman Vincent Tavernese and sophomore Alexa Rahman are competing for the position of senator for the School of Music. Tavernese is the current senator and has been part of the search



From left, juniors Grace Madeya, Tessa Kurtz, Maxwell Powers and sophomore James Zampetti give their campaign platforms for the Student Governance Council executive board.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

committee for the new dean of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tavernese said it is important that the prospective dean could make a vision that works for both Whalen and Dillingham and to choose someone who is an advocate for diversity in music.

Rahman said she wants to make sure that students of color are represented. She said one way she will do this is by forming a diversity, inclusion and equity council to review all of the School of Music’s curriculum.

Junior Himadri Seth is running to be reelected as the international senator and said she hopes to continue her work voicing the unique struggles international students face.

“The total international student body makes up only about 2% of the entire body in the college and so something that a lot of us very often struggle with is finding representation,” Seth said.

Sophomore Nick Viggiani is running for reelection for the Class of 2024 senator. He said

he wants to continue his efforts on the SGC Mental Health Committee and increase student engagement. There are 25 senate positions but only eight senators currently in office.

“I think one of the biggest issues that SGC has right now ... is we don’t have a ton of members,” Viggiani said. “So, it’s very hard to be a voice for your classroom if they don’t even really know you exist.”

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

Sexual assaults occur near IC

BY LORIEN TYNE

A woman reported four male subjects had grabbed her and touched her against her will at approximately 9:45 p.m. April 17 while she was walking on the 100 block of South Meadow Street — less than two miles from Ithaca College’s campus.

According to the Ithaca Voice, a group of men pulled the victim into the parking lot of a closed business.

After forcibly touching the victim, the group is reported to have fled the scene on foot.

All of the male subjects were wearing COVID-19 face masks and were estimated to all be in their twenties.

The victim reported that there was one Black male and three hispanic males all of whom were wearing dark colored clothing and hooded sweatshirts — one sweatshirt was dark green.

The investigation is ongoing and the Ithaca Police Department (IPD) is requesting any witnesses contact the IPD dispatch at 607-272-3245 or the police tipline at 607-330-0000.

This incident comes after the Cornell University Police Department sent out a crime alert March 30 about an alleged sexual assault that took place at about 1 a.m. March 17 between Ridgewood Road and the 100 Block of Thurston Ave.

This incident occurred less than three miles from Ithaca College.

The IPD gave no further details about the crime or potential suspect.

According to the IPD report, the victim said she was “sexually assaulted by an unknown suspect.”

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

Project on waste in fashion wins Whalen Symposium

On the first day of the Whalen Symposium, junior Melanie Sepulveda-Rosado presented her research paper “Fad Fashion: Overconsumption of the Fashion Industry Through Interdisciplinary Thought.”

From April 11 to 12, Ithaca College hosted the annual Whalen Symposium, which honors the college’s former president James J. Whalen by allowing students to present their research in a professional setting and win awards. This year, students from the School of Humanities and Science presented their research April 11, while students from the Schools of Business, Health Science and Human Performance, Music and the Roy H. Park School of Communications presented April 12. On April 11, Sepulveda-Rosado won Best Oral Presentation for her project and shook hands with President La Jerne Cornish and Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs.

The paper, which Sepulveda-Rosado wrote independent of her coursework, examines the wastefulness and corruption that is endemic in the fashion industry. News editor Elijah de Castro spoke to Sepulveda-Rosado about the inspiration behind her project, the content of her paper, and what she plans to do with the project in the future.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Elijah de Castro: How did this project begin?

Melanie Sepulveda-Rosado: It started because one of my professors, Michael Smith [professor in the Departments of History and Environmental Science]. He teaches Intro to Environmental Humanities, and he assigned a project ... where you think about the

world around you and draw on what you’re learning in class. I started thinking about the fashion industry, specifically through a sustainability standpoint. That’s when I started doing my own research and developing this paper on the interdisciplinary thought within the fashion industry.

ED: What was this project inspired by and how did you go about making it?

MSR: I think the fashion industry has been an ever-changing market and industry. It has only [been] gaining popularity with the rise of social media, specifically TikTok and Instagram. I see it within my own life that everybody kind of has this kind of underlying overconsumption problem. ... I realized that I needed to branch out and look at the economics and marketing and the legislation and policy behind it. That’s where interdisciplinary goes into the title.

ED: How did you bring together all these different things — economics, environmental science, politics — in your project?

MSR: I’m a transfer into the ENVIS [Environmental Science] school. I used to be a Business and Economics major. That’s where I spent two and a half years. So actually the majority of my experiences are in the business field, so it kind of seemed to just make sense. All of these problems within the fashion industry are really linked.

ED: In terms of specifics, what did you discover about the fashion industry that you didn’t know before?

MSR: [The paper] was a case study on companies that are really big that people don’t talk about as fast-fashion compa-



Junior Melanie Sepulveda-Rosado won Best Oral Presentation at the 2022 Whalen Symposium for her project on overconsumption within the fashion industry.

KALYSTA DOAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

nies, like Nike. Nobody talks about it as a fast-fashion brand. It’s kind of viewed as this like elevated athletic brand, when in reality it has the same reputation of using child labor and exploitative labor practices [as other fast-fashion brands]. The regulation part — that’s something nobody talks about nearly enough. ... Brands can really say and get away with a lot. They can claim a lot and it doesn’t even have to be remotely true, because as long as they use slightly vague language [so that] they can get away with it.

ED: In terms of winning the award [for Best Oral Presentation], what was that like? What was it like watching this project go from the start to winning [the Whalen Symposium]?

MSR: I was kind of shell-shocked for a little while, honestly, just because I didn’t expect it. I’m a first-gen student, so having these opportunities and these awards presented to me because of my research and having academic successes is a really big deal for me. It’s a really big deal for my parents too. My parents were on the Zoom [livestream of the awards]. They were watching my presentation and they were watching the award ceremony and screaming from our living room when I won. It’s a really big win, not just for me, but also for my family.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
DECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Participants needed for research survey conducted by students

Judith Pena-Shaff, professor in the Department of Psychology, and her research team of undergraduate students are conducting a study about the influence of culture and peoples' well-being on social support and help-seeking behaviors among Latin American and Caribbean-born adults.

The results of the study will help the research team learn about the differences in expectations and norms about relationships between someone and their social network, as well as whether these factors affect how and if individuals seek out and use available social support.

This study is also being conducted to give undergraduate psychology students an opportunity to gain experience conducting research and presenting the findings at conferences.

Individuals who agree to participate in the study will be asked to complete an online survey that will take about 30 to 60 minutes to complete. The survey consists of questions that will ask participants about their cultural values, subjective well-being, social-support behaviors and some of the respondents' sociodemographic information.

Participants are allowed to skip any questions they do not want to answer and are able to stop taking the survey at any time. None of the questions can be used to identify participants and will be completely anonymous. Some of the questions may induce anxiety or stress.

Individuals are eligible to participate if they are at least 18 years old and were born in a Latin American or Caribbean country. The survey can be taken in English or Spanish and the link is available on Intercom.

Performance review period open for college employees to finish

The IC Performance Review Process is an annual opportunity for staff and supervisors to reflect on the accomplishments of the past academic year.

The process is meant to be a way to celebrate career performance and identify ways to enhance professional development. The online 2021–22 fiscal year review process opened April 18 with a completion deadline set for June 3. The Performance Review

Process can be accessed through Finance and HR Cloud. The college has sent out time frame guidelines to help with completion. The self-assessment should be done between April 18 and 29. The supervisor review should be completed between April 30 and May 20 and the review meetings and final feedback should happen between May 21 and June 3.

IC Second Stage to perform show this April titled 'Next to Normal'

IC Second Stage will be performing its production of "Next to Normal" at 7:30 p.m. April 22 and 23 and at 2 p.m. April 24 in the Cherry Arts Space at 102 Cherry Street. Tickets are free but must be reserved prior to the performance.

"Next to Normal" debuted on Broadway in 2009 as a pop-rock contemporary musical written by Brian Yorkey, an American playwright and lyricist. The musical was nominated for 11 Tony Awards that year and received a Pulitzer Prize in 2010. The IC Second Stage rendition of the musical is directed by senior Elizabeth Smith.

"Next to Normal" is known for its complex portrayal of mental health disorders and treatments, specifically in the cases of bipolar disorder and depression.

Individuals who require accommodations should contact Smith as soon as possible at esmith9@ithaca.edu.

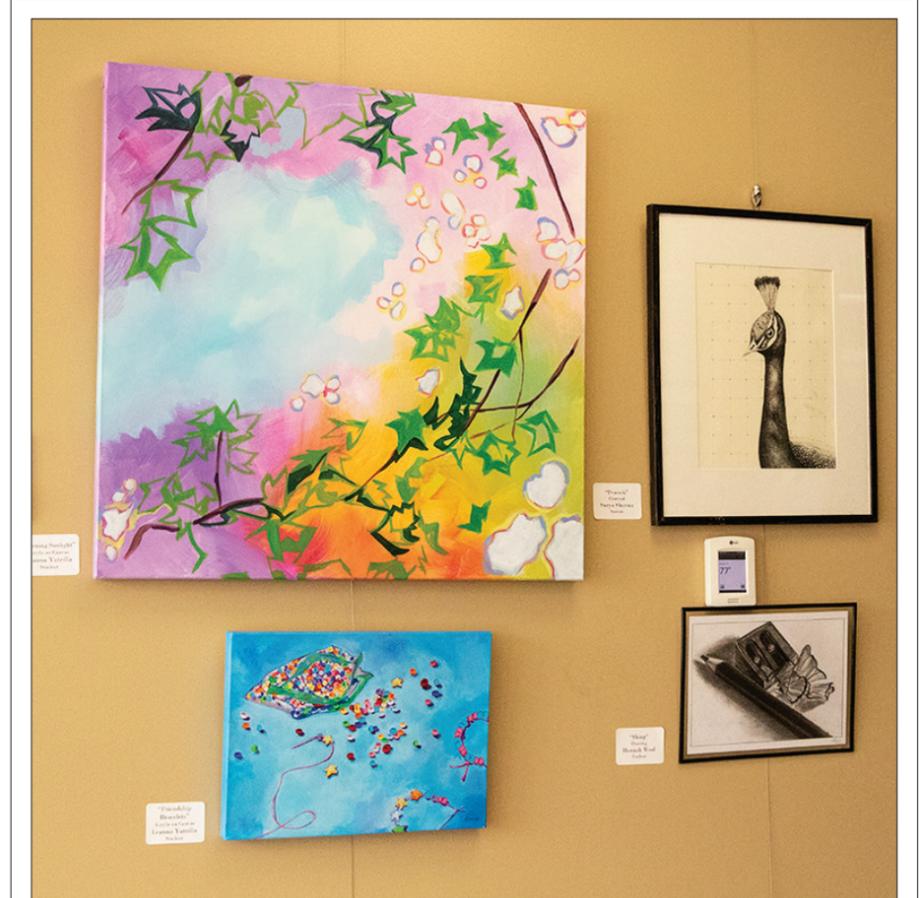
County to change alert system for locals from Swift911 to SIREN

The Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response has announced that the county's Safety and Incident Real-Time Notifications (SIREN) is now available to all residents within Tompkins County.

In the near future, the new SIREN system will replace the current Swift911 mass notification system. SIREN is a free, real-time alert service that allows residents to receive alerts sent from local authorities.

The alert system can send alerts through phone, text and email with updates of potentially hazardous situations such as weather, traffic and other emergencies.

Anyone who was previously signed up for Swift911 will be automatically enrolled in the new SIREN system. Students are encouraged to utilize the service and can sign up by



IC community gets creative for art show

Students, faculty and staff displayed their artwork in the ONWARD exhibit April 15 in the McDonald Lounge of the Ithaca College Campus Center. It was co-hosted by the Staff Council's Employee Engagement Committee and the Tri-Council.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

texting SIREN to 67283. Ithaca College has partnered with Rave Mobile Safety to offer the Emergency Notification System (ENS) to the campus community — which is an option similar to SIREN that also provides access to safety resources through the Rave Guardian mobile app.

The college's ENS service is also available for campus visitors who are not current students, faculty or staff to receive an alert notification through text when the college sends out an emergency message via Rave. Individuals who would like to opt in to this service can text "ICVisitor" to 226787. To stop receiving the alerts, individuals can text "leave ICVisitor" to the same number.

College to give faculty workshop to improve summer sessions

The Learning and Innovative Technologies team has partnered with VoiceThread

to present two one-hour workshops. Faculty who are teaching summer session courses are invited to attend the workshop, which will help faculty develop activities that build collaboration, community and engagement.

Faculty will learn introductory VoiceThread skills and be walked through the basics using multiple examples from actual Canvas courses.

There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout the session, which will cover the same topics as the first session, which was held April 20. The second session is at noon May 4.

The sessions will be led by George Haines, an expert VoiceThreader, curricular designer and former educator.

Those with questions can contact Jenna Linskens, director of Learning and Innovative Technologies, at jlinskens@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 4 TO APRIL 10

APRIL 4

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: 284 Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported they felt nauseated and dizzy for several days. Officer reported the person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All other/other
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person caused damage to the caller's vehicle at an off-campus location. Officer reported that the caller filed a report with the Ithaca Police Department. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

APRIL 5

CRIMINAL TRESPASS/THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: 106 Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was in their room without permission. Officer reported that the caller did not wish to file charges. The person was escorted from the area.

Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: 147 Textor Circle
SUMMARY: Caller stated that after having taken prescribed medication, they were suffering from numbness, blurred vision and nausea. Officer reported that the person was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the call.

APRIL 6

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: 131 Textor Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person possibly passed out, having problems hearing and standing. The person did not pass out but did have flu-like symptoms and declined medical assistance from the Office of Public Safety staff. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported having flu-like symptoms and difficulty breathing. Officer reported that the

person was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

APRIL 7

LARCENY FOURTH DEGREE VIA EXTORTION

LOCATION: 334 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person demanded money from another person. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

APRIL 8

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50-\$199

LOCATION: 318 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: An officer observed multiple unknown people stealing property on recorded camera footage. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the scene.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: 131 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller requested a check on the welfare of a person who was ill and had not had contact with the caller for an extended period of time.

Officer reported the person was located and advised to make contact with the caller. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

APRIL 9

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Officer reported a fire extinguisher was maliciously discharged. Officer reported being unable to locate the person or people responsible. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the scene.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

LOCATION: East Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Officer reported a large group of people in vehicles possibly drinking alcohol. Officer reported that the people were found to have permission to be in the area for a film shoot. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the scene.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: 406 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person on the ground. Sergeant Jon Elmore

reported the person was having a seizure and was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: 406 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported that someone had damaged a toilet. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

APRIL 10

LARCENY FOURTH DEGREE/OVER \$1000

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported that unknown person(s) stole clothes from an unattended dryer. Sergeant Don Lyke responded to the scene.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

SCC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
AD – Assistant Director
IFD – Ithaca Fire Department

OPINION

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

7

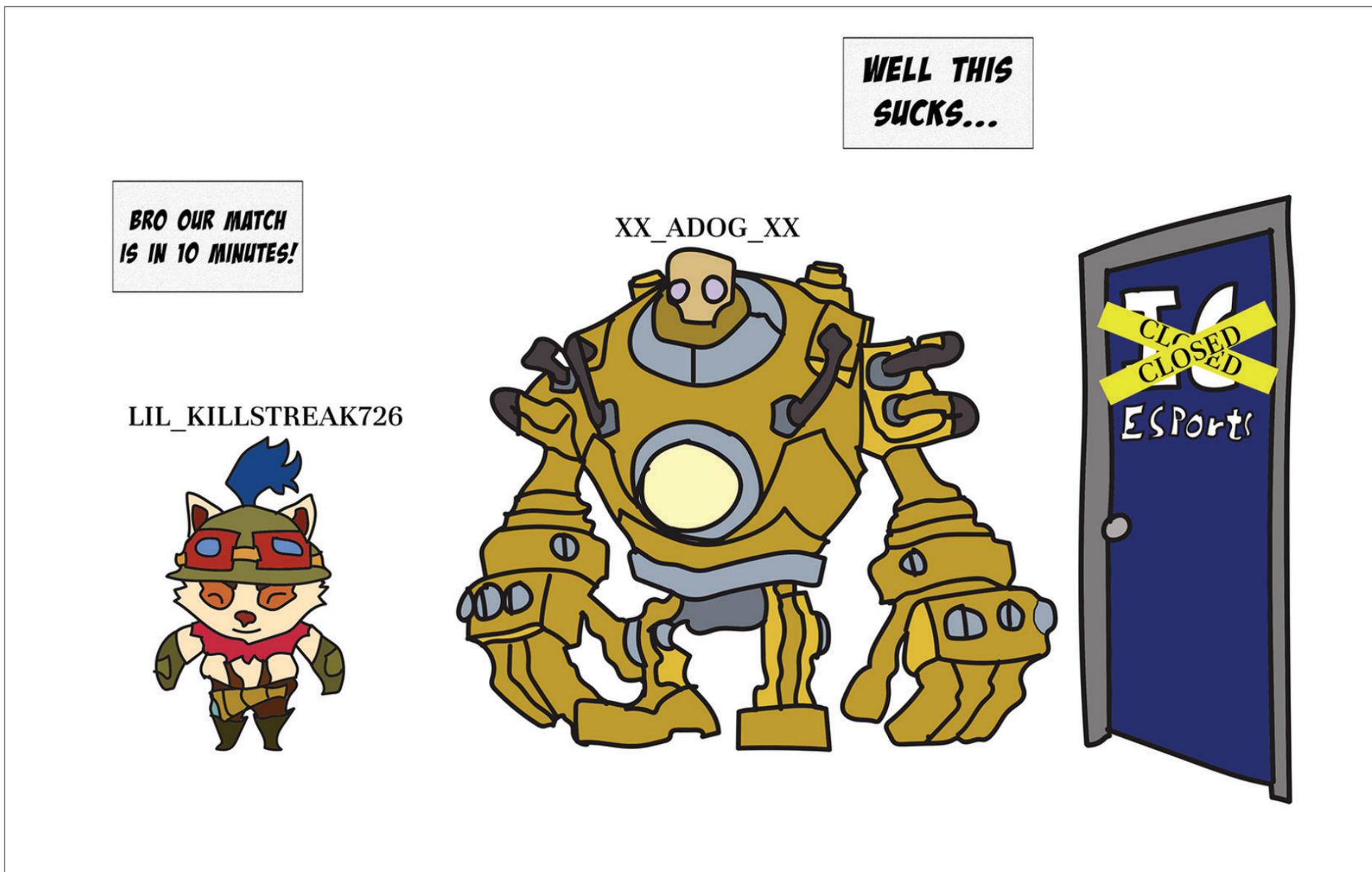


ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT

EDITORIALS

Harm reduction education is needed across campus

Drug-related deaths are nuanced experiences. But dialogue surrounding them tends to be chalked up to a tragedy rather than a problem worth engaging with. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the amount of opioid use and drug-related deaths across the U.S. and in our local surroundings — investing in understanding this crisis is needed now more than ever.

Ithaca College has taken action by implementing educational opportunities: partnering with the Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP), opioid overdose prevention trainings are being held for the entirety of the campus community to benefit from.

The messaging here aims to create a community that supports one another. Naivete surrounding substance use happening on campus is harmful. Being prepared to address the signs of alcohol poisoning or react to an overdose by knowing how to properly administer naloxone is not only helpful

but lifesaving. Harm reduction techniques focus on the merit of the people — who deserve respect and understanding — as opposed to the substances they are using. These techniques are proven to be effective in encouraging safety and recovery and are necessary for decreasing the social stigma that surrounds drug use.

Kim Conrad, harm reduction site coordinator for the Western Region at STAP, acknowledges harms associated with illegal drug use move beyond the substances themselves — dehumanization of the user is where we fail as a society.

“That human connection is a huge part of what makes harm reduction work,” Conrad said. “Stopping drug use is a great goal to have, but there are ways to help people stay safe that’s going to lead to some real benefits for themselves and society at large.”

These trainings are essential to our education and offer students a humane lens to approaching life outside of campus.

Esports requires support from college higher-ups

Ithaca College’s Esports Club — a student-run program created from the ground up, which offers a space for casual and competitive gamers — was founded in 2019 and has already seen many successes.

The club competes against varsity-level esports schools across the country and garnered awards when the COVID-19 pandemic began. However, these broadcasts were discontinued once coverage for the college’s football team resumed.

The college administration does not seem to be prioritizing the club’s successes. Whether this is due to the newness of the club or stigma surrounding esports, members of the team are feeling the effects of neglect.

The team did not have access to its practice facility for most of the year, as compared to last year during the height of the pandemic. The lack of support to carry such momentum into this year has inhibited what the team is clearly capable of achieving. It has separated members and forced them to

practice and communicate online instead of in the room that is meant specifically for the esports team.

While action is needed from the administration, esports team members should invest in recruitment and retention for the longevity of the team. By doing so, the team will invest in the stability of the club’s future.

Staff members in the Office of Recreational Sports care for and work to support the team, but there is obviously a disconnect. Has the esports club reached out to voice its dissatisfaction with the current conditions? Is the Office of Recreational Sports aware of the team’s concerns? Direct communication and swift action is necessary to resolve this apparent rift between the esports team and the Office of Recreational Sports.

The esports team’s achievements deserve to be recognized; it has accomplished quite a bit in its three years of being a club. Both the college and the team must put in the effort and time to ensure that the team prospers in the future.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

- Be 250 words or fewer
- Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor zsandhu@ithaca.edu.

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Convey a clear message
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject
- Be between 500–650 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor



BETWEEN THE SHEETS

GREEN-EYED EX-GIRLFRIEND

The paradox of physical touch

The other weekend, one of my friends tried to hug me, to which I explained how much I hated hugs because I “don’t like touching people.” Yet later that night, I went and had sex with someone. As I tried to fall asleep that night, the question hit me. Why am I more comfortable having sex with someone than I am with hugging one of my friends? Any form of platonic physical touch as a display of emotional intimacy or affection has always made me wildly uncomfortable. It wasn’t until recently that I noticed a great paradox within my boundaries that led me down a spiral of self reflection.

It didn’t take me long to realize why I found one much easier than the other. As a woman who has sex with men, I know exactly how I am “supposed to” behave during sex. However, I do not know how I am “supposed to” express genuine emotion through physical affection. The social scripts for this in real life have never been as obvious to me and I can only remember maybe two occasions when my parents hugged each other. As someone who struggles greatly with social anxiety, not knowing how I am “supposed to” act is incredibly stressful.

Having been socialized as a woman, what men desire in a female sexual partner has been spoon-fed to me throughout my entire existence. Porn, social media, “sexual wellness” magazines in the checkout aisles of grocery stores — the sexual scripts that I am expected to follow have always been right in front of me. As a result of my social anxiety, any sort of guide for how to behave to be perceived as “normal” or “good” I will inadvertently follow. Upon this reflection, I understood why sex with men had always been easy for me in that I have never really felt anxious about how I was acting. I had internalized what I had always been told that men want and done exactly that every time. After all, it’s easy to get an A on an exam when you know the questions ahead of time.

What bothers me about this is how my emotional distance and inability to be vulnerable affects my friendships that I want to have investment in. I have had friends express how it makes them sad that we never hug each other. Thankfully, most of them have been in my life long enough to understand why we don’t, but I still can’t help but feel as though I am letting them down or offending them.

After discussing this with a few of my socially-anxious female friends, I learned that I was not alone in experiencing this massive contradiction. We have been encouraged to extend our boundaries during sexual experiences to please men as a result of the way we have been socialized, detach ourselves emotionally to avoid getting hurt as a result of hookup culture, and have been left not knowing how to display affection in our friendships. There is little understanding for those who struggle with this paradoxical issue, and overcoming dodgy emotional intimacy takes exactly that — understanding.

BETWEEN THE SHEETS is an anonymous sex column of stories from Ithaca College students. Contact *The Ithacan* at ithacan@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Lack of tenure-track faculty is a detriment

BY LOUIS MENCHACA

On Tuesday, April 12, the Ithaca College community received an email from the college’s head administrators that a new center is being created within the Division of Marketing and Enrollment Strategy that will be known as the Center for Student Success and Retention. To say that this announcement upset me is an understatement.

The discontent with this announcement stems from the decision to create a new administrative department and install two new full-time administrative positions while stability in faculty staffing across the college is in dire need of more financial support. Even after one accounts for full-time equivalent faculty position reductions detailed in the Shape of the College document, the number of tenure-track positions to fill at the college is significantly incongruous with the current plan to hire tenure-track professors. As of this writing, there are over 15 professorships previously filled by tenured faculty that are currently staffed with one-year positions in the School of Music alone. Relying on one-year instructors



Louis Menchaca, graduate student in the School of Music, addresses his discontent with the deficit of tenure-track faculty, which eliminates a sense of stability for current and future students.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROINSON/THE ITHACAN

for these tenure-track positions provides little sense of stability for prospective and current students; therefore, this current mode of operation is not ideal. Could the money being used to create new administrative positions not instead be used to fund more tenure-track positions and searches for such faculty?

Current and future students would be better served by hiring

and retaining quality instructors who have daily or weekly direct contact with students. If leaders of the college find this criticism misguided, I would welcome a dialogue with upper administrators, beginning with another college-wide email discussing how this decision is truly in the best interest of both the college’s student population and its (fiscal) future.

Otherwise, this announcement reads to me as a poor decision that capitalizes on a short-term PR victory while ignoring real institutional staffing problems with which administrators need to reckon.

LOUIS MENCHACA (he/him) is a wind conducting graduate student in the School of Music. Contact him at lmenchaca@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Video games help increase motivation

BY CHRISTOPHER OGDEN

It’s Sunday night and after a long weekend, you’re cramming all your assignments that were handed out to you weeks before. The last thing you want to be doing is sitting at your desk, library or homework station thinking about how to do all this work in such a short period of time. I find myself doing so every week.

The thing I’d rather be doing is hopping on the PlayStation console and playing some video games with my friends. From non-gamers, there’s a known perception of negativity surrounding video games and how they affect academic status and brain stimulation. I must admit that this negativity is quite premature and there is a problem with how schools, parents and peers stigmatize the use and consumption of fun old video games.

Many critics automatically turn to the negative aspects of gaming, and I will agree there are some. In some cases, gaming can result in bad grades, a development of bad habits and a lack of motivation. Although these are compelling factors, I have personally used gaming as a motivation technique and seek alternative positive outcomes. It is clear that others do this as well. Game-based learning can provide opportunities for strategic thinking: it can motivate disengaged learners, encourage collaboration and serve as a safe environment for learning. With the innovative technology we have today, gaming is here to stay.

On average, 70% of college students have reported that they play video games occasionally. I can’t stress the number of times my family has told me to get off the game. If gaming was so bad, I wouldn’t use it to find stress relief.



Senior Christopher Ogden discusses the benefits of gaming. He believes the negativity surrounding video games is premature and his peers should try gaming as an outlet.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

I have heard from many people that gaming guides you to an antisocial lifestyle that is hard to break out of. I find that it is the exact opposite. Gaming allows me to interact with friends outside of the real world. Especially with COVID-19, gaming has allowed me and my friends to stay connected and build our relationships every day. It may sound quite nerdy, but interacting with my friends and people I don’t even know has built my communication skills and allowed me to prosper in social situations outside of my room. Video games can act as a safe space for individuals with social anxiety disorders. These platforms allow users to experiment and communicate when and how they want in situations that are vulnerable.

The negative connotation gaming has is a real problem worth mentioning. What is so bad about it? Gaming can be and is my outlet from the real world. I believe your brain and

mind are the most important parts of your body to train and focus on.

Gaming can be and is my outlet from the real world. I believe your brain and mind are the most important parts of your body to train and focus on. Gaming can increase an individual’s gray matter in their brain — the part responsible for muscle control and sensory perception skills. In fact, gaming can increase brain connectivity, improve coordination and problem-solving skills, lead to greater brain efficiency and even build opportunities for socialization.

Next time you feel the stress of school, personal life or other issues, I urge you to try gaming and see how far that relief of stress can go.

CHRISTOPHER OGDEN (he/him) is a senior integrated marketing communication major. Contact him at cogden@ithaca.edu.

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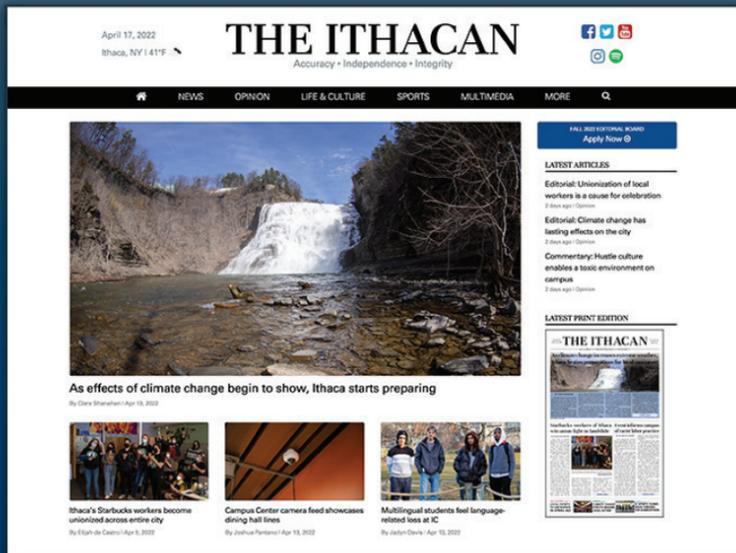
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**WE'VE GOT
 PODCASTS**



THE ITHACAN



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 WHILE ON THE GO**



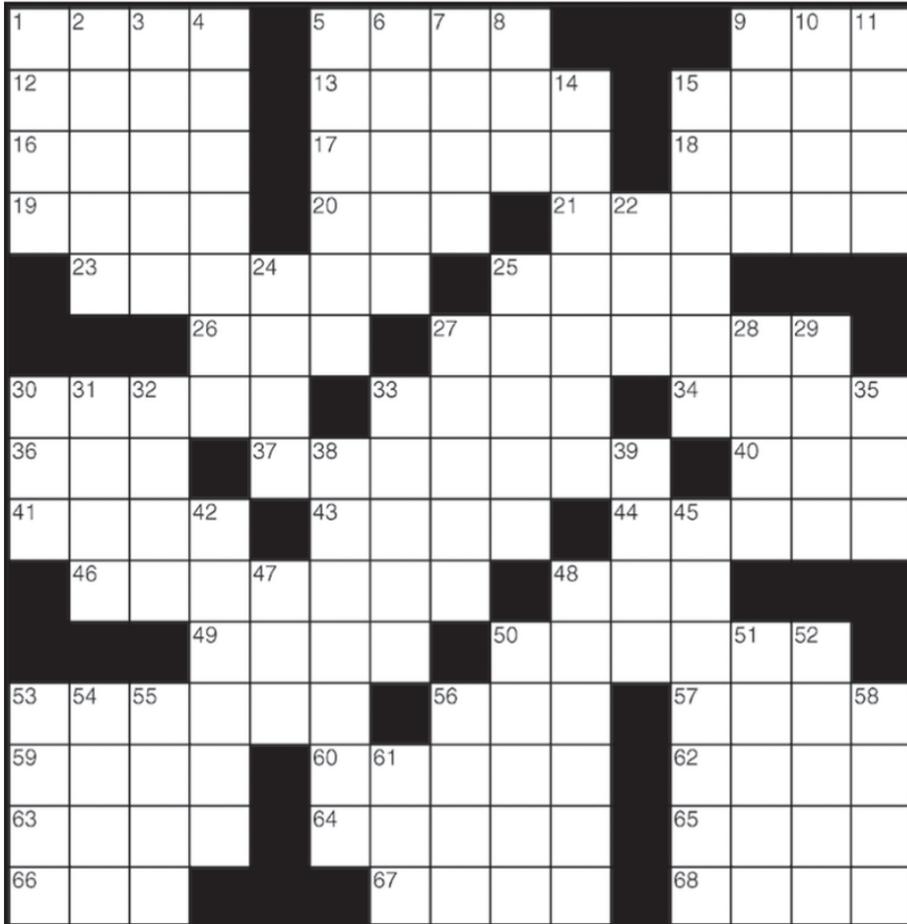
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DIVERSIONS

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Norse king
- 5 Sonar's sound
- 9 Seize
- 12 Sanskrit dialect
- 13 Rush off
- 15 Freight rider
- 16 Kindergarten lesson
- 17 Early life
- 18 Scepter go-withs
- 19 Many August people
- 20 Blitzer's channel
- 21 Makes a try
- 23 Chuckles
- 25 Dix or Knox
- 26 Beluga product
- 27 Kind of rhyme
- 30 Leave-taking
- 33 Heart
- 34 Name in fashion
- 36 Tabby or tiger
- 37 Couple
- 40 Rx watchdog
- 41 Plow the field
- 43 State definitely
- 44 Colossal one
- 46 Made driving hazardous
- 48 Jr. naval officer
- 49 Two fives for —

DOWN

- 14 Axiom
- 15 Emceed
- 22 Almost-grads
- 24 Toe pain
- 25 Uproar
- 27 Pushed ahead
- 28 Crevice
- 29 The Force was with him
- 30 Play a role
- 31 Lecturer's spot
- 32 "— cost you"
- 33 Witch's group
- 35 Fled
- 38 Used the hose
- 39 Sight from Messina
- 42 Rented
- 45 Cays
- 47 Monsieur's summer
- 48 Fled the score
- 50 Still in the game
- 51 Chicago airport
- 52 Mountain kingdom
- 53 Overflow with
- 54 Aachen article
- 55 Prima donna's tune
- 56 Give the eye
- 58 Whimper
- 61 Brown of renown

last issue's crossword answers

COST	CAMEO	VOLT
ARLO	APART	EVER
REAL	SPRAT	NANO
TOGETHER	OCLOT	
RAINY	MAE	
SCRAPED	FABRICS	
WAITER	BUN	MEW
ANGER	FEN	RUBLE
MOI	ARN	MINUTE
INDIANA	SADDEST	
RHO	CADGE	
UTMOST	UNNERVED	
REIN	HORDE	BARE
SAKI	ELVES	ISIS
ALEC	REEDS	DECK

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sudoku medium

4	2	6						
		4					7	
	8	1	3					9
5	6						8	
	9	2	6					3
	3						6	
	5	8			1	3		
		9	4	3	5			

very hard

7	3	9						
5	3		2		9			
	1							8
		7			6			
		2	1			5	7	
	5	6		1				4
9	6							5
2								

answers to last issue's sudoku:

medium

7	2	3	6	8	4	5	9	1
1	9	6	7	3	5	2	8	4
8	5	4	2	9	1	3	7	6
9	7	1	8	6	2	4	3	5
3	6	8	5	4	7	1	2	9
2	4	5	3	1	9	8	6	7
4	8	9	1	7	3	6	5	2
6	1	2	9	5	8	7	4	3
5	3	7	4	2	6	9	1	8

hard

4	2	9	6	8	5	1	3	7
3	1	5	2	9	7	4	8	6
6	7	8	3	4	1	5	9	2
9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2	1
2	8	1	7	5	4	3	6	9
7	3	6	1	2	9	8	5	4
1	9	7	5	6	3	2	4	8
8	4	3	9	7	2	6	1	5
5	6	2	4	1	8	9	7	3



After 11 of the show's cast members were infected with COVID-19, the Department of Theatre Art's production of the musical "Fun Home" had to cancel its second to last show April 14. The show's team made casting, choreography and safety adjustments to the production, allowing the cast to take the stage for one final show.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

BY JADYN DAVIS

After COVID-19 had made the majority of its cast unavailable, the "Fun Home" cast members weren't sure they would be able to live out their performances after the cancellation of their second-to-last show. After a week of revisions, students made sure the show could go on, presenting the campus community with an entirely rebuilt showing of "Fun Home."

After dealing with multiple COVID-19 cases throughout the week, the Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts' production of the musical "Fun Home" put on one final performance, following the five performances the cast was able to perform after a last minute change in cast. On April 13, the Ithaca College Theatre announced that its performance of the musical "Fun Home," scheduled for April 14, was canceled after 11 cast members had tested positive for COVID-19 earlier that week. The Ithaca College Theatre's box office reopened for the semester March 21 with tickets for "We Wear the Sea like a Coat," "Red Bike" and "Fun Home." The last show of the season, "One-Act Play Festival," is scheduled to begin April 25.

Based on the graphic novel of the same name, "Fun Home" is a five-time Tony Award-winning musical written by

Alison Bechdel. "Fun Home" dives into Bechdel's past to tell the story of how her father's temperament and secrets defined her family and her life. By moving between past and present, Bechdel relives her childhood playing at the family's Bechdel Funeral Home.

Aimee Rials, the show's choreographer, said in an IC News story that the musical's themes have made working on "Fun Home" a personal and rewarding experience.

"As a queer choreographer, it is rare to have the opportunity to work on a musical that's focused on LGBTQIA+ stories," Rials said in the story. "It makes working on this production a very special process for me. The level of creative energy, collaboration, and talent in all areas has been a tremendous experience."

Sophomore musical theatre major Regan White was cast as the female cover for Medium Alison and had to step in at the last minute once it was confirmed that the original Medium Alison tested positive for COVID-19.

Junior Daniel Hewson, theatre production and design major and technical director for "Fun Home," oversaw the entire building process for the scenery of the show and the stagehands who worked backstage. Hewson said that while he was



"Fun Home," adapted from Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic novel of the same name, is an autobiographical musical about the author's life and family.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

initially upset about the COVID-19 cases at first, he was glad the show was able to continue with the help of the Department of Theatre Arts, which had a professional plan for continuing to put on the show.

Even though New York City has lifted the vaccination and mask mandate for indoor gatherings and events, the owners of all 41 Broadway theaters in New York City will continue to require vaccinations for audience members as well as performers, backstage crew and theater staff for all performances through April 30, 2022.

Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the shutdown of Broadway at a news conference March 12, 2020. The theater shutdown would last until vaccines started to become readily available. Many Broadway shows have begun to reopen, but understudies and swings have had to step into roles at a higher level as a result of contagious variants.

Hewson said the issues "Fun Home" is facing have been commonplace in the entertainment industry since the pandemic and that the college's theater department tackled the challenge posed by COVID-19 professionally.

"Right now, as an industry, we heavily rely on the incredible skill and dedication of our swing performers and technicians, and Ithaca is part of that," Hewson said.

"There were numerous actors that took on new roles, our costumes and wardrobe team worked swiftly to fit and alter all of their clothes, we had other students and area heads step into run crew positions and a courageous director, Gavin Mayer, and production associate, Amanda Spooner, leading us through the fog."

Back in November 2021, the cast of the college's production of "Rent" also experienced a number of COVID-19 cases during production, and the show was also canceled as a result. Like "Fun Home," ticket refunds were available for anyone who purchased tickets prior.

Hewson said that controlling COVID-19 cases has been an issue that many theaters are facing across the country.

In addition, he said the college's decision to reduce its COVID-19 precautions early, such as removing mask mandates and health badges, may have led to the cases among the cast.

Despite drawbacks, Hewson believes that every show the theater puts on is a wonderful experience and that the endless hard work the cast and crew put in to make the show happen all became worth it at the sight of an excited and engaged crowd.



Sophomore musical theatre major Meredith Brown and senior musical theatre major Mayson Sonntag take center stage at Ithaca College's Clark Theatre.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT JADYN DAVIS
JDAVIS16@ITHACA.EDU

Park Roundtable series hosts women in gaming

BY MIKE ROSS

On April 18, the Roy H. Park School of Communications hosted “Women in Gaming: Experiences & Opportunities for Women in the Gaming Industry” as part of its Park Roundtable series. Three women leaders in the gaming industry spoke with host and moderator senior Mary Turner over Zoom about their experiences and visions for the future of women in esports.

Each speaker works in the gaming space and was chosen by the Park School to share advice and expertise about the climate of the industry for the women who work in it or are a part of it. Each panelist comes from different occupations and applies their individual career skills to their position in gaming.

Entrepreneur Rebecca Dixon is CEO and co-founder of the*GameHERs, a social network and media platform for women who game and work in the gaming industry.

Dixon came from the parenting industry, having worked on a platform which connects parents with caregivers. After selling the company, Dixon and her colleagues started noticing many statistics surrounding the experiences of women in gaming. Despite making up almost 50% of all gamers, women face consistent toxicity in the industry and competitive scene.

“There were tons of women in gaming before us, and a bunch of incredible initiatives,” Dixon said. “We felt like what we had been doing with our knowledge of

community building and creating a space were unique, so we launched the*GameHERs on the exact same day the CDC declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Not the worst time to launch a company in the gaming industry.”

Dixon said her personal favorite part of working at the*GameHERs is having the opportunity to collaborate with so many talented and hard-working women. Neither Dixon nor her colleagues come from the gaming industry.

“We had to surround ourselves with smart women who knew different aspects of the industry,” Dixon said. “At the beginning it was like [the social network] Discord.”

Jenn Mancini '96, one of the invited panelists, has been working in the gaming industry for almost 20 years. For the past 10 years, she's been working in influencer integrations, developing brand executions at Twitch, a platform with a focus in gaming. Mancini said her work in the gaming industry is more of a passion project for her, stemming from her long experience playing games herself.

“I think for me, it's such a fun industry,” Mancini said. “And we stay in it because it's fun.”

The other panelists agreed that the gaming industry is usually an enjoyable and engaging environment, regardless of how long they've been in the industry itself.

Joanie Kraut, one of the invited speakers, is the CEO of Women in Games International (WIGI), a non-profit organization geared



From left, the*GameHERs CEO Rebecca Dixon, senior Mary Turner, PlayerWON sales director Jenn Mancini '96 and Joanie Kraut, CEO of Women in Games International, discussed the gaming industry.

COURTESY OF PARK PROMOTIONS

toward advancing diversity in the gaming industry and providing more development and management positions for women. Kraut started off in journalism, writing for her college's newspaper. After deciding journalism wasn't for her, she went into accounting and analytics. Kraut used skills from both of her previous occupations to lead WIGI and host events.

“My experience from both of those things has helped me navigate WIGI and navigate this industry as a whole,” Kraut said. “I've learned how to connect the

dots of both analytical data, as well as hearing people's real stories and understanding what the actual pinpoints are.”

Like Mancini, Kraut was a member of the gaming community before working in the industry.

“I think one of the biggest things that a lot of colleges are doing is creating esports teams,” Kraut said. “But they're creating an opportunity not just to be the performer or the gamer, but there's also the opportunity to be on the production side, the marketing side and all these other areas.”

Dixon said that starting in the gaming industry as a woman is the same as starting in any industry, getting on LinkedIn and working on building strong connections. The three panelists all agree that networking is the most efficient first step of industry involvement.

“You know, not everybody who works in the WNBA is playing basketball,” Dixon said. “It's a huge industry. It's a great thing to think about.”

CONTACT MIKE ROSS
MROSS3@ITHACA.EDU

New gardening club connects students with nature

BY HANNAH FICHTER

A table at the front of an auditorium in Textor Hall is filled with boxes full of mason jars, bags of seeds and several pieces of neon green paper scattered about. Junior Benjamin Berkowitz, the club founder, brings the meeting to a start by delivering a brief but informative presentation to introduce the new club Grow IC.

Grow IC made its debut with its first general meeting April 17. The meeting was open to the entire campus community, providing those in attendance with the opportunity to create do-it-yourself (DIY) sprouting jars. Each person was able to create the jar and take it home with them.

After the opening presentation, Berkowitz explained to the crowd how to build a sprouting jar and the line quickly formed behind the table. Sprouting jars are made by filling a mason jar with one to two spoonfuls of seeds, adding water to the jar, then placing a mesh fabric over the top.

The lid is then screwed on and the jar is ready to go. Every day the water needs to be drained from the jar, the seeds swished around and new water added. After the sprouts are to the desired size, they are ready to be eaten.

Sophomore Olivia Costa, the club's treasurer, said a small amount of sprouts goes a long way.

“Two ounces of these sprouts has about 22 grams of protein,” Costa said.

Berkowitz said he came up with the idea for the club after watching a VOX video of seed bombing. These seed bombs were thrown by radical gardeners in the 60s

and 70s in an effort to take back New York City. Environmental activists like Liz Christy and Hattie Carthan worked to improve abandoned urban spaces and establish community gardens in New York.

“I love history and education videos,” Berkowitz said. “Seed bombing was done by activists in history. They would throw dirt filled with seeds into abandoned lots and eventually gardens would bloom in the area.”

Anne Stork, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Studies and one of the faculty advisers for the club, said there has historically been a gardening club on campus, though lack of leadership has been a consistent issue.

“Lots of people want to be in a club but not many want to be in charge,” Stork said. “At one point the gardening club was made up of over 20 people.”

When the club came to an end after loss of leadership, Berkowitz saw the need for a nature-oriented club and founded Grow IC.

Berkowitz described the creation of the club as a long, draining process.

“It was a lot of work,” Berkowitz said. “I had to write the constitution, get advisers, find members for the e-board and learn more about the gardens myself.”

The club received its approval at the start of the semester which meant that the funding for the year had been missed as a result of the club's late approval and the semester almost coming to an end. Berkowitz said it was difficult to get supplies because of this.

“Getting supplies for this event took about a month and a half,” Berkowitz said. “We have a limited amount of supplies for the DIY activity because of spending limits.”



Students line up to create sprout jars with mesh fabric, mason jars and seeds as part of Grow IC's first general meeting as a new on-campus gardening club.

MAGGIE BRYAN/THE ITHACAN

Grow IC is meant to bridge the gap between the environment and the Ithaca College campus.

“There are gardens on campus,” Berkowitz said. “But many students do not know about them.”

The campus gardens are located by Farm Pond Road. Stork said that when Berkowitz proposed the idea for the club to her, he did not know that there was a garden on campus. The garden on campus is mainly used for gardening classes.

Berkowitz said he envisions the gardens eventually being able to help grow food

for the dining halls in the future. Berkowitz also finds himself working on creating a partnership between the club and Cornell Botanical Gardens.

This new club aims to bring new people into the gardens and bridge the gap between nature and the community, building awareness of the environment onto campus.

“I want to grow plants, but also the [Ithaca College] community,” said Berkowitz. “I want to feel closer to nature.”

CONTACT HANNAH FICHTER
HFICHTER@ITHACA.EDU

Sonic sequel features fan-favorites

MOVIE REVIEW: "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" Paramount



BY MIKE ROSS

When I saw the first "Sonic the Hedgehog" film in February 2020, I was pretty disappointed. As someone who grew up a pretty big fan of the titular blue blur, I had anticipated his sprint on the big screen for years. Unfortunately, I was met with what was essentially a re-color of the 2011 Easter-themed children's film "Hop." James Marsden plays an average-Joe who crosses paths with a silly rodent and gets caught up in all of his problems. Both films fit this description to a tee. "Sonic the Hedgehog" was unoriginal and didn't take enough advantage of the goldmine of source material it had available, opting instead to present a generic action plot under the likeness of one of the most well-loved personas in all of gaming, absent of the rich characters and plot points the series had already crafted for over 30 years. One part of the movie did happen to grab my attention: the end-credit scene in which Sonic's iconic partner Tails leaps out of a portal into Sonic's new home on Earth.

This scene already put the sequel at an advantage. The first film's greatest weakness is directly fixed by the new film's greatest strength: actually being about "Sonic the Hedgehog" characters. Sure, the human characters are granted a little side plot about going to a wedding in Hawaii, but the interactions between Sonic,

Tails, Knuckles and Dr. Eggman throughout the film make the irrelevant human scenes worth it.

While I prefer some of the older-voiced iterations of the hedgehog from the video game series, Ben Schwartz does a pretty good job providing Sonic's voice. Tails' voice actress, Colleen O'Shaughnessy, has been voicing the two-tailed fox since 2014, and for good reason. Her voice suits him flawlessly in both appearance and attitude. Idris Elba's casting as Knuckles was a total shock to me (as well as the entire internet), but his voice gave the echidna a tough and much-needed edge after Knuckles' goofy and dim-witted portrayal in the 2014 animated series "Sonic Boom."

Unfortunately, Dr. Eggman's history as Sonic's #1 rival doesn't exclude him from the film's weaknesses regarding human characters. This isn't at the fault of Jim Carrey's performance, rather the lines he was given to perform. The writers seem to have been a bit distracted with writing for Carrey that they forgot he was portraying a character who's had his own personality since 1991. The iconic animal trio leaves fans wishing the portrayal of Dr. Eggman was as faithful as the other characters.

Dr. Eggman's very frequent shortcomings are thankfully patched up due to the introduction of Knuckles in this film. The fight scenes between Sonic



Knuckles and Sonic go head-to-head in this classic rendition of a beloved franchise, leaving fans hopeful for future films.

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT

and Knuckles are satisfying for a lifelong fan of the series. The film's improvement of using source material is present in more than just the portrayal of its characters. A scene in which Sonic snowboards down a mountain atop a long piece of scrap metal mirrors the opening cutscene of the 2001 platformer "Sonic Adventure 2" (one of my personal favorites). Knuckle's relationship with Dr. Eggman is the same one fans saw in the 1994 Sega Genesis game Sonic 3 & Knuckles.

These "Easter eggs" make the sequel to the first non-satisfactory film feel as if more heart was put into it. The apparent "Sonic Cinematic Universe" that's being created took a huge step in the right direction with "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," and the recent box office achievement of best opening weekend for a video game film casts a shadow of success over the franchise's future.

CONTACT MIKE ROSS
MROSS3@ITHACA.EDU

'The Dropout' delivers a suspenseful true story

SERIES REVIEW: "The Dropout" Hulu



BY M MINTON

Shows that depict infamous success stories gone wrong have long populated our screens. Stories about the truth behind deception can feel repetitive with their rise-and-fall arcs or end up fascinating audiences. "The Dropout," despite its familiar structure, thankfully finds itself being more of the latter.

Based on the podcast of the same name hosted by Rebecca Jarvis, "The Dropout" chronicles the true story of Elizabeth Holmes (Amanda Seyfried), a determined Stanford dropout who founded the medical testing start-up Theranos. The company's stated goal was to create healthcare technology that would allow for people to test their blood with a small pin prick as opposed to long, uncomfortable needles. From even before she begins her freshman year of college, Holmes knows she wants to create a company and doesn't let anything stop her.

Not even the web of lies she creates and the thousands of people's health she puts at risk along the way fazes her, leading to a show full of suspense and drama.

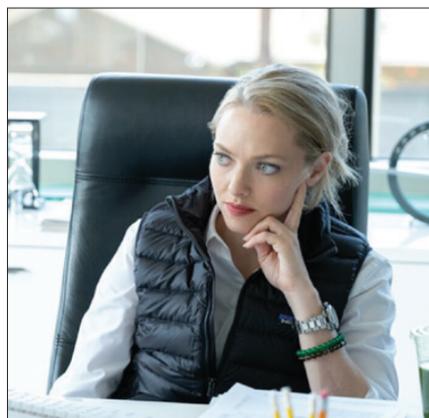
"The Dropout" places Seyfried front and

center in one of her best roles to date, following Holmes from her first deceiving act to her last. Seyfried portrays Holmes in an Emmy-worthy performance, allowing for the audience to be fully engaged as they initially want to see Holmes succeed with her clear ambition and intelligence.

However, as the show continues on, Seyfried is able to convey the deep fall of Holmes' character. One scene in particular early on in the show, where Holmes first begins practicing her infamous fake deep voice, is chilling to watch.

Showrunner Liz Meriwether and directors Michael Showalter, Francesca Gregorini and Erica Watson help to give Holmes' story greater depth by portraying a woman trying to make it in the male-dominated world of business start-ups.

"The Dropout," similarly to movies like "I, Tonya" and "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," portrays a controversial, real-life woman with the kind of complexity and humanity that she deserves. The writers and directors don't shy away from the disturbing and uncomfortable truth of how many lives Holmes put in danger through her decisions and also give the viewer the space to



"The Dropout" takes a real-life incident and turns it into a series that chilled viewers.

COURTESY OF HULU

understand what would lead a person to make such morally questionable choices.

What holds "The Dropout" back from being a truly great show is that the writers and directors don't always seem to know what tone works best from episode to episode. When the show commits fully to be an investigative crime drama closely following Holmes, the show is at its best. However, the attempts at dark comedy throughout frequently don't land.

As is often said, sometimes real life can be more interesting than the big fantasy worlds that populate our screens.

Despite some of its downfalls, "The Dropout" is one such example of that, reminding us that the media's craving for a juicy, engaging investigative crime story hasn't run out.

CONTACT M MINTON
MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU

POPPED CULTURE

Thrift stores lack inclusivity

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

When you check out the Plato's Closet website, it all looks very enticing. The company accepts trendy secondhand fashion and, if you donate and the employees accept your clothing, you get paid in cash on the spot. The tagline sounds amazing too — "Look good. Do good. Feel good." Too bad it's a bold-faced lie.

A few weeks ago, I wanted to buy a new formal dress for an event that I will be attending over the summer. Buying nice things for an affordable price is always a bit of a hassle, especially when you're like me — a size 20-something and with a well-realized sense of personal style — but I didn't expect Plato's Closet to present me with such a horrible shopping experience. I tried on at least three things, and I didn't "look good" or "feel good" in any of them.

The first red flag was that the selection stops at a size XL. While that's already a bit concerning for a big girl, when I really got to looking through the racks, I noticed that some of the clothes that were labeled XL were actually sizes 12–14. For anybody who doesn't know, XL is supposed to be sizes 16–18. While I wouldn't have fit into the clothing, even if everything was labeled correctly, I can imagine how it would feel to be a size 18 and find an "XL" dress you like just to try it on and see that you don't fit into the item that was supposed to be your size. However, while this lack of choice may not be a reflection of Plato's Closet, it is a reflection of the fashion industry and its tendency to discriminate against fat people.

A major threat to the environment is fast fashion, defined as cheap, trendy clothing of poor quality that ends up in the dump after only a few wears — a product of over-production and capitalist consumption.

Plato's Closet encourages sustainability by offering people a way to recycle their clothing. While it would be great to denounce all fast fashion brands and transition to purchasing exclusively recycled clothing, I, and many other fat girls, don't have that luxury. How am I supposed to participate in the anti-fast fashion movement if stores like Plato's Closet don't sell items that I can wear?

Plus-size clothing is in high demand, with approximately 70% of U.S. women being a size 14 or above. PLUS Model magazine defines plus sizes as sizes over 18, but there are many disagreements on what is considered plus size.

Even Torrid, a popular plus-size clothing brand, carries sizes as low as 10. But plus-size thrift options get picked through very quickly, and I rarely am able to find something in thrift stores.

I have been told repeatedly, by women who have the luxury of walking into secondhand stores and finding boundless options, that purchasing from fast fashion brands makes me a bad person. I want the right to look and feel beautiful in my body, without being complicit in the questionable practices of mainstream fashion brands.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Avery Alexander is a senior English major. Contact her at alexander2@ithaca.edu.

IN A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

ESPORTS CLUB SEEKS SUPPORT

Senior Manny Sanchez, captain of the IC Blue League of Legends team, said the team has been unable to use the esports room at the college this year because of scheduling difficulties. Instead, the team practices virtually, using online chat apps to communicate.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

BY ORI JORDAAN-GRADY

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the esports team gained popularity, as it was able to showcase its games on the show “Bombers Live” on ICTV. Senior Manny Sanchez, who was the lead captain, was also one of the main coordinators and producers of the show and put together a team that he thought could last for many years to come.

“We did Bombers Live Esports ... and it was immensely successful as we partnered with [the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)],” Sanchez said. “We were the official broadcast for their playoffs and finals and we were runner-ups for best esports coverage.”

The success of the show was undoubtable, also earning third place for the CBI Award — a national award for college sports coverage. But these broadcasts ended when competition resumed for the college’s football team in 2021.

Founded in 2019, the Ithaca College Esports club appeals to casual gamers who just want to have fun with friends in weekly local events, as well as competitive gamers who enjoy the thrill of tournaments. The competitive esports team is divided into two teams of five players. IC Blue plays in the ECAC, one of the largest esports leagues in the country at the collegiate level. The other team is IC Gold, which is a part of the NECC, a lower-level gaming league. Both leagues play the game League of Legends against other colleges around the country in their given divisions. IC Blue plays in the respective

Eastern Conference, a partner conference of the larger ECAC organization. The team placed second out of 75 other programs in the area in its first two seasons of play.

Sanchez, who is captain of IC Blue, said he and the club were frustrated with the lack of support from the college and believed that it was unfortunate the team could not have carried the momentum into this year.

“The college in the past said ‘Oh, we want to have an esports program,’ but they really have not put their money where their mouth is,” Sanchez said. “The advantage that our school has over other schools is we have an award-winning student media, but unfortunately the college does not seem to be interested in going in that direction.”

Sean Reilley, associate director for Recreational Sports, said he believes that the club should already be seen as an official program, because it competes against varsity-level esports schools. Reilley said he has weekly meetings with the club’s executive board, which encompasses both the casual and competitive branches.

Senior Tenzin Namgyel, teammate and friend of Sanchez, said he wishes that at least administration could have offered an official manager and coach who could run the scheduling.

Additionally, reserving time in the competitive team’s specific practice room in Friends Hall has been a struggle. Time difficulties with teammates



IC Blue competes in the Eastern College Athletic Conference, while IC Gold plays in the National esports Collegiate Conference, both playing League of Legends.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

and other events made it difficult to practice in person as a team, with the players using Discord from their own spaces, which Sanchez believes put the group at a disadvantage compared to premier collegiate esports programs across the country.

The club follows the same process as other club sports for funding, by submitting formal funding requests, and was one of just two club sports to receive funding for the 2021–22 school year. This year, the club was provided a total of \$3,452, Reilley said via email. Reilley also said via email that the esports club was allocated \$1,500 during the 2020–21 academic year.

Reilley said he feels like he has focused much of his time into supporting the esports club. He said he believes the esports club has received the most support out of any other club on campus. He also said via email that the group is “the only competitive club sport that does not charge member dues.”

“Over the past three years, more time and resources have been committed to growing the esports club and program than any other club we have,” Reilley said. “They’re being treated the same way that other club sports are because they go through the same recognition process and the same funding request process.”

Reilley said he feels like he’s been very involved with the club as a whole and believes that the club is just getting started since

esports is on the rise.

Sanchez said he is also very concerned about the survival of the club once the founders in the senior class have graduated.

Reilley also said he does not anticipate the addition of an official varsity-level esports program added to athletics anytime soon. This would require further considerations and agreements between the athletic administration, the recreational sports committee and the college’s administrations.

Susan Bassett ’79, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the department has been impressed with the growth of the esports club and is open to the possibility of working with the team in the future.

“We would certainly consider exciting new opportunities and programs,” Bassett said via email. “The question we have to answer is related to viable competition, funding and staffing needs, and student interest. We are very excited that [esports] has strong interest at Ithaca College. We would have to do additional analysis before determining a timetable to elevate the activity to varsity status.”

The future may be unknown for the players of the competitive esports teams, but the club will look to gain more of a presence on campus and continue its success.

“It just was coincidence that all of us decided to go to the school and we’re all decently good at the game,” Namgyel said. “I think esports was totally taking over.”



ICTV earned national recognition for airing esports competitions on “Bombers Live” during the COVID-19 pandemic, but stopped once football resumed play in 2021.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT ORI JORDAAN-GRADY
OJORDAANGRADY@ITHACA.EDU

IC ranked in Learfield Directors' Cup

BY DEAN GUTIC

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) released the Learfield Directors' Cup standings March 31 for the first time since 2019. After Fall 2021, Ithaca College sat at 44th in Division III in the cup but vaulted up 30 places to the 14th spot thanks to strong winter performances by the Bombers.

The Directors' Cup is based on each college's postseason performances in the multiple competitions that their women's and men's sports take part in, with awards for all three divisions. The inclusion of multiple sports incentivizes colleges to produce strong programs in all sports rather than focus on one or two.

The Bombers' women's basketball and men's swimming and diving and wrestling teams all contributed heavily to the college's rise in the rankings due to their success in the winter. Senior Jordan Wallace, one of the wrestlers at the college, said he was impressed by how much winter sports impacted the college's ranking after the college moved to the 14th spot. He said he thinks it is due to the high standards the athletes at the college hold themselves to.

"[We have] high standards, how we account ourselves," Wallace said. "We're always competing with each other in the room ... it's a positive



From left, senior Cara Volpe and graduate student Megan Yawman from Ithaca College run into junior Olivia Middleton and senior Ava McCann from St. Lawrence University on Feb. 27.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

competition, it makes everyone want to have a higher standard and hold themselves to it."

With the Bombers moving up to the 14th spot, they are one of the six teams that have been in the top 30 since the Directors' Cup started in 1995. It is also the highest Ithaca College has been ranked after the winter season since joining the Liberty League in 2017.

Senior Logan Bruce, part of the women's track team, also said the improvement in the standings helps build confidence for the athletes at the college.

"It really shows the dedication that the student-athletes have to their respective sports,"

Bruce said. "I think that it's a really good confidence booster to the athletes that we are top 20 in Division III and that we are really getting a little reward for the school as a whole and how much time we put into our athletics."

Kevin Markwardt, head coach of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, said that the Directors' Cup standings show prospective students and other colleges how good the Bombers are.

"To me, it's really exciting because these rankings are a big reflection on your program," Markwardt said. "It is a tool that helps us tell recruits that it is not just our program but also

our athletics in general."

Graduate student Megan Yawman, a starting guard for the women's basketball team, said the athletics and their success caught her eye as an undergraduate applicant, leading to her commitment to the college.

"What these rankings say about Ithaca's athletics is that we are the best of the best, and it's not a one-time thing," Yawman said. "It's something we expect across the board in all seasons and all sports every year, and it is something that we've been able to prove."

CONTACT DEAN GUTIC
DGUTIC@ITHACA.EDU

Women's sports receive bequest

BY TOMMY MUMAU

All Ithaca College women's athletics programs are now endowed — meaning they have increased funding to help provide necessary resources for the programs — after an anonymous alum donated over \$600,000 to 10 women's teams.

An April 14 announcement stated that the college's women's field hockey, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and volleyball programs have received an equal distribution of the funding. This bequest will create endowments for each of the 10 teams, to go along with the 15 endowment funds that have already been dedicated to the college's teams and athletics facilities. While the alum that made the bequest has been left anonymous, it is noted in the statement that she graduated in 1942 with a degree in physical education.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Ithaca College Athletics and for our women's sports programs that have not previously had endowments," Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said in the announcement. "The generosity and foresight of this one alumna has an immediate transformative impact on the success of these programs for perpetuity. I could not be more grateful or more delighted."

The statement said the head coach of each team will work with Bassett to determine the best way to use the funds. It also encouraged people to donate to the athletics programs on Ithaca College Giving Day, which is set to take place April 26.

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU
TMUMAU@ITHACA.EDU

Tennis programs find success in recruiting

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

When not playing on the courts, the Ithaca College men's and women's tennis teams look for a constant edge in getting high school tennis players to commit to the program. Along with searching New York state for top talent, the coaching staff has found success looking outside of the state and even outside of the country.

On the men's team, eight of the 10 players are from outside of New York, three of which are international students, coming from Ecuador, Greece and Spain. Of the 15 players on the women's roster, seven are from outside of New York. Two players on the men's roster are from Florida, while two on the women's team are from Pennsylvania. Chris Hayes '16, men's and women's tennis head coach, said that when it comes to getting recruits outside of the state, the most important thing to focus on is promoting the college to recruits.

"It's about getting our name out there," Hayes said. "I use a variety of tools to get the Ithaca name and our logo out there for people to see that we are a reputable school. I recruit all over the country at different showcases and in tournaments. I send a ton of emails to kids, not just from all over just the country but the world as well."

For international recruits, the process of recruiting in American schools leads to players from one area going to many different schools across the country. Sophomore Nicolas Luis said tennis recruits in his home country of Spain end up going to a wide variety of American colleges.

"I know people who've gone to larger colleges, but I also know other people who have gone into smaller colleges and people

who stayed in Spain," Luis said. "But I don't know other players who went to college in New York."

Hayes said the process of recruiting outside of the country also differs from national recruiting because of differences in recruits being greater than in national recruiting. Hayes said Luis never visited the college when he was being recruited, but senior Minos Stavrakas did visit campus when Hayes was still a player on the team. Hayes said that because of how different the process can be, what resources recruits have access to changes as well.

"It's really different for all international recruits," Hayes said. "The most important thing to me is consistent communication. ... If we can get them over for a visit, that's great. But if we can't, it just kind of is what it is. It's a lot to ask to travel across the sea to visit campuses, especially if they don't necessarily have the resources to do it, especially in COVID times. So for each international recruit, we have to go about it a different way."

One way that Hayes and the coaching staff convince players from out of New York to go to school in the state is by making connections. Hayes said the most important thing in recruiting players is keeping them in the loop through connections that Hayes has created.

Stavrakas, who joined the team before Hayes became the coach, said one of the ways he has seen Hayes make that connection with recruits has been to stay in contact with them through texts as well as highlighting the atmosphere around the team.

"[Hayes] reaches out on a personal level with the recruits," Stavrakas said. "He tries to bring them to campus so they can see the school and meet us because that's the best



Sophomore Nicolas Ruiz is originally from San Juan de la Rambla, Spain, and was recruited by head coach Chris Hayes to play for Ithaca College's men's tennis team.

RYAN PILLION/THE ITHACAN

advertisement for bringing in someone to the team. For them to come and see, watch or just play and spend time with the team is really huge for them."

Freshman Lauren Rodriguez, who is from Austin, Texas, was recruited by Hayes and said he stayed in close contact throughout her time being recruited.

"He was going to make an in-person visit to Texas," Rodriguez said. "But it was during COVID, so he couldn't make it down to Texas. But he did text me quite a bit and we had phone calls pretty often."

Another way that Hayes has been able to bring players in from around the country and internationally has been connections. Luis said the way Hayes has been able to make connections has been important in getting recruits to commit to the college.

Hayes said that while it takes him time and much work to recruit, he enjoys getting to go on the road to meet players, exploring areas outside of New York. Hayes also said he enjoys connecting with his recruits.

"I enjoy recruiting," Hayes said. "It's a treat for me because I get to explore different parts of the country. ... A big part of my recruiting is really getting to know the people I'm recruiting. ... You're asking this person to come join your program for the next four years, so a big part of my coaching philosophy is developing a strong relationship with players. Developing a relationship during the recruiting processes is very important to me."

CONTACT TOBIAH ZBORAY
TZBORAY@ITHACA.EDU



The Guiding Eyes for The Blind program hosted an event, "Easter Puppy Photo Op" on April 14 in Textor Hall 103, where students can get their pictures taken with a pup in an Easter outfit and join in on a puppy play. Reagan is one of the many pups being trained at Ithaca College to become seeing-eye dogs. KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN